

### REMARKS

Applicants request that the Examiner enter this preliminary amendment and pass the application to examination. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application or if such communication would be helpful to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David W. Okey" followed by some less legible characters, possibly "March 1, 2004".

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